

Proxmire Links Tax To Missiles

Sen. William Proxmire said today there should be no Federal tax increase next year unless United States missile defense require a dramatic increase in military spending.

The Wisconsin Democrat, in a speech for the Tax Foundation here, said that kind of defense spending probably would be stimulated only by development of an antiballistic missile system.

Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara has said the Soviet Union is building such a system. To counter it, McNamara recommended building a new submarine-borne missile with improved capacity for penetrating a missile defense.

But Sen. Richard B. Russell, D-Ga., chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, has said the United States should develop an antimissile system of its own.

Proxmire said inflationary pressures on the economy are easing and "only a dramatic need for increased defense spending could justify a tax increase...."

He said the war in Viet Nam is unlikely to require that kind of increase. But he added that if a decision to develop a multi-billion dollar antimissile system is made "a substantial across-the-board tax increase would be required."

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